



**SMU**

Clements Center for Southwest Studies  
DEDMAN COLLEGE OF HUMANITIES & SCIENCES

# The Head of JOAQUIN MURREITA

## lynching, legends & love in the wild wild west

John J. Valadez,  
Film Studies,  
Michigan State  
University

Thursday, November 17,  
2016

12:00 to 1:30 pm  
101D Harold Simmons  
Hall,  
6401 Airline Road  
on the campus of SMU

Co-sponsored by:  
The William P. Clements Center  
for  
Southwest Studies  
and  
Simmons School of Education



Joaquin Murrieta, a legendary Mexican outlaw, blazed a trail of revenge following the theft of his land, and the rape and murder of his wife. In the summer of 1853 he was killed by bounty hunters. They put his head in a jar, displayed it across California, and charged people a dollar to see their trophy.

One 162 years later, filmmaker John J. Valadez is convinced he finally has found the head. So together they embark on a quixotic, cross-country road trip through history, memory, and myth to bury the fabled head of Joaquin Murrieta, and finally lay to rest a dark and troubled past – one that has chilling parallels with the filmmaker's own family story.

*This afternoon talk will feature John Valadez's film followed by a post-screening discussion with the filmmaker.*